

I

STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

on the work of the
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1968

STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

on the work of the
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1968

STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman : Mrs. H. B. GAZARD

Vice Chairman : Mr. W. ROWBOTHAM

Members of the Council :

Mr. A. W. Beard	Mr. R. Holroyd
Mr. M. J. Bridgford	Mr. S. James
Mr. J. W. Bullock, J.P.	Mr. D. G. Lloyd-Jones
Mr. R. P. Crowe	Mr. A. J. Millington
Mr. A. L. Hall	Mr. C. G. Taylor
Mr. E. C. Higgs	Mr. C. I. Wainwright
Mr. T. J. Higgins	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Civic Centre

Telephone Number: Stourport-on-Severn 3101/2/3, 2318 (4 lines)

Public Health Inspector :

MR. N. SYKES, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Clerk :

MRS. J. E. MEW - Resigned 30.4.68.

MRS. J. O'FLYNN - Commenced 1.5.68.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1968

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council**

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1968.

The Report is divided into the following sections:—

“A” Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

“B” General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

“C” Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

“D” Housing.

“E” Inspection and Supervision of Food.

“F” Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Main Occupation of the Area

The industrial activity within the district is extremely varied and includes carpet manufacture, ceramic insulators, chains for many purposes, wire cables, fans, timber products, concrete slabs, kerbs etc., electrical transformers, vinegars and sauces, bulk storage of petroleum spirit and oil and various light engineering works.

There is also in the district one of the largest Power Stations in the Midlands.

The River Severn is navigable for commercial traffic but it is being used less and less and the principal use is that of pleasure cruising. The same remarks apply to the canal and the basins but the combination of the river, canal and basins provides quite a busy focus of holiday activity which promotes further industry in the building, repair and furnishing of the boats.

SECTION "A"

AREA IN ACRES	...	...	...	...	...	3218
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1968)	...	...	...	...	...	4919 ⁵³²¹
according to rate books						
RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	...	£723752
SUM REPRESENTED BY ONE PENNY RATE	...	...	...	...	...	£3050
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION (1968)	...	...	...	...	...	15260

LIVE BIRTHS

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	1968	1967
Legitimate	...	...	...	180	158	338	264
Illegitimate	...	...	...	9	10	19	20
				189	168	357	284

THE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated popu- lation for the Urban District	...	...	...	23.4	19.45
THE BIRTH RATE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES for the same period	...	...	...	16.9	17.2
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS per cent of total live births was	...	...	...	5.32	7.04

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	1968	1967
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	2	5	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
				4	2	6	6

THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total live and still births was	...	...	...	19.20	20.69
THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total live and still births for England and Wales for the same period	...	...	...	14.00	14.8

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	1968	1967
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	...	...	...	193	170	363	290

DEATHS

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	1968	1967
TOTAL DEATHS	...	...	...	75	54	129	124
THE DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated popu- lation was	...	...	...	...	...	8.5	8.35
THE DEATH RATE for the whole of England and Wales per 1,000 population was	...	...	...	...	...	11.9	11.2
MATERNAL DEATH (including Abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil

	1968	1967
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE for the year per 1,000 births (live and still) was ...	Nil	Nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY for England and Wales for the same period per 1,000 births (live and still) was	0.24	0.20

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	Female	1968	1967
Legitimate	3	2	5	8
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	3	2	5	8

INFANT MORTALITY RATE for the year per 1,000 total live births was	14.0	28.1
INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 total live births for the same period for England and Wales was	18.00	18.3
INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 illegitimate live births was	Nil	Nil

NEONATAL MORTALITY

	1968	1967
Deaths of Infants under four weeks	5	5
Representing a rate of 14.00 per 1,000 live births.		
The Deaths of Infants under four weeks in England and Wales represents a rate of 12.3 per 1,000 live births.		

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	Female
Congenital Malformations	Nil	1
Other ill defined diseases	4	1
Pneumonia	1	1

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE

	Male	Female
The deaths of infants under one week number representing a rate of 13 per 1,000 live and still births.	3	2

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

The still births and deaths under one week numbered 11 representing a rate of 30.3 per 1,000 live and still births.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	31
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATHS (Including Transferable Deaths)

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75 and over
B19 (1) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
B19 (2) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	2
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
B19 (3) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
B19 (4) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
B19 (5) Leukaemia	M	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19 (6) Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	M	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	4	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
B23 Anaemias	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B46 (4) Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
B27 Hypertensive Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	3	3
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
B29 Other forms of Heart Disease	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	7
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	M	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	8
	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	4
B46 (5) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B32 Pneumonia	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B33 (1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
B46 (6) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
B34 Peptic Ulcer	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46 (7) Other diseases of Digestive system	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46 (8) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B44 Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	M	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B45 Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE48 All other Accidents	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
TOTAL All Causes	M	75	3	—	1	—	2	—	1	11	7	24	26
	F	54	2	—	—	—	1	—	6	6	5	8	26

SECTION " B "

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Services

Producer samples of milk and samples of piped water supplies are examined by the County Laboratory, Worcester, together with food for chemical analysis. The major part of the bacteriological work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Service

This service is administered by the County Council as Local Health Authority, and there is a system of wireless control with the headquarters in the County Medical Officer's Department at Worcester. The Kidderminster Ambulance Station provides a fully manned 24 hour service. An ambulance for infectious cases is stationed at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital (under the control of the Regional Hospital Board).

Hospitals

All Hospitals are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board through their Management Committee. The Kidderminster General Hospital received the majority of hospital patients from this district. The Lucy Baldwin Hospital provides the district and surrounding area with maternity beds.

Cases admitted to the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital

during the year	...	...	...	...	...	679
Women delivered	...	...	...	...	...	502
Infants born alive	...	...	...	...	...	500
Infant deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Infants stillborn	...	...	...	...	...	3
Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Infectious Diseases

Beds for Infectious Diseases are provided at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen and at Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester. There was one case admitted from Stourport-on-Severn during the year.

Tuberculosis

Out patient treatment is provided at the Kidderminster Hospital Dispensary, where Dr. Cronin attends, Wednesday mornings, Thursday and Friday afternoons. Inpatient treatment is arranged at Newtown, Worcester. Prevention and after-care remain the responsibility of the Local Health Authority and the service is administered locally by the After-care Sub-Committee.

Venereal Disease

In view of the closure of the clinic at Kidderminster Hospital, treatment and "follow-up" are carried out at clinics at the following hospitals :

Worcester Royal Infirmary
Dudley Guest Hospital
Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton

Nursing in the Home

The service is administered by the Local Health Authority. There are :

1. Three nurses who deal principally with the Midwifery and General Nursing. A car is provided.
2. Three whole-time Health Visitors/School Nurses who visit infants and children in the home and are responsible for their welfare from fourteen days until they attend school at five years old. From school entry they assist the School Nurse where necessary with school medical inspections, treatment of minor ailments at the clinics and visit certain cases of mental defect. They act as general health advisors to the family in conjunction with the doctors and give help wherever practicable, particularly with ageing members of the family.
3. Another Health Visitor also visits case of Tuberculosis.
4. A Geriatric Health Visitor who is responsible for the Welfare of the aged in their own homes.

Clinics

(a) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Ante-Natal Clinics are held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital in the charge of Doctors R. S. MacArthur, C. Mackie, D. K. Black, J. T. N. Williams, W. T. Mackie, J. W. Bywater and Matron respectively. A clinic is also held by the district midwives on the second and fourth Monday in each month.

(b) INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

- (i) Lucy Baldwin, a weekly clinic with doctor in attendance first and third Friday of each month.
- (ii) Wilden, held third Wednesday in each month.
- (iii) Areley Kings, held in Parish Hall, Areley Kings, on second and fourth Thursday afternoons. (in charge of Dr. J. W. Bywater).

SECTION “ C ”

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The majority of the dwellings in the area are supplied with water from the North West Worcestershire Water Board. The source of the supply is deep bores in the Bewdley Corporation's area and the storage reservoirs are situated at Mount Pleasant.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Septimus Brown, Engineer and Principal Officer of the North West Worcestershire Water Board for the information he has supplied in connection with district supplies over the year.

He states that regular tests have been carried out to confirm that the water is not plumbo-solvent and regular bacteriological and chemical samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and the County Analyst to ensure the suitability of the water at all times for public supply.

Mains reinforcement works have been completed in the district which have resulted in a considerable improvement to the Town's water pressures as a whole and in particular to the higher parts of the Walshes Estate.

Regular samples of private supplies have been taken without any serious contamination occurring. Advice was given to a holiday bungalow association in the use and possible treatment of its supply.

Sewerage and Drainage

Owing to the rapid increase in house building, private and council, the sewerage system is almost continually being extended and imposing heavier loads upon the pumping stations and existing trunk sewers.

The end of 1968 did not see the commencement of the projected extensions to the pumping stations and sewers but it is anticipated that the Minister's Inspector will shortly attend a public enquiry into the scheme.

SECTION " D "

HOUSING

Number of Council Houses	..	1490	
(use of 3 and 5 Minster Road and St.Michaels Lodge)			
Number of Applicants	.. ..	199	101 ordinary 98 old people
Number of Applicants living in lodgings		51	27 ordinary 24 old people
Approximate total number of persons represented by the list of applicants	..	270 470	

3 demolition orders were made during the year and 4 houses were actually demolished.

SECTION " E "

SAMPLES OF FOOD AND DRUGS TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS

Adulteration of Food

Mr. Owen, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, reports as follows:—

Sampling of Retail Supplies

174 samples were taken, made up as follows:—

Ordinary milk	...	...	...	...	29 samples
Channel Islands milk	...	...	...	...	12 samples
School milk	...	...	...	...	1 sample
Miscellaneous foods	...	...	...	...	109 samples
Drugs	...	...	...	...	23 samples

This represents a rate of 12 samples per 1,000 of population based on the 1966 estimate.

Unsatisfactory samples were as follows :—

- (a) Pineapple Jam — slightly low in fruit content. Repeat sample satisfactory.
- (b) Brandy and Creme de Menthe — consumer complaint — slightly low in proof spirit, probably due to evaporation. Repeat samples were satisfactory.
- (c) Clotted Cream — contaminated with mould. Retailer warned and remaining stock taken off sale.
- (d) Oranges — small excess of preservative in skins. Further supplies not available for test.
- (e) Apples — “Merton-Cox” apples described as “Cox”. Retailer warned.
- (f) Nicotinamide Tablets — contained some nicotinic acid tablets. Retailer warned and all stock destroyed. The effect would not be dangerous.

All milk samples were satisfactory.

Sampling at other than Retail Level

39 ordinary milk and 24 Channel Islands milk samples were taken from churns.

One sample of Channel Islands milk was low in fat, but other samples from the same producer were satisfactory and the overall fat content of the 5 churns was above the minimum standard of 4% fat.

A considerable part of the milk retailed in Stourport is bottled at a processing dairy in Kidderminster. 55 ordinary milk (including 34 from bulk tanks) and 28 Channel Islands milk samples of incoming supplies were taken at this dairy. Unsatisfactory samples were as follows :—

- (a) 2 samples of ordinary milk from a producer having a bulk tank contained 0.3% and 0.8% extraneous water respectively. Repeat samples were satisfactory. The producer was found to have a fault in his milking plant; he was warned.
- (b) A sample taken from one churn in a consignment of 7 had a small fat deficiency. Overall, the producer's milk was satisfactory.
- (c) A sample taken from one churn of Channel Islands milk in a consignment of 2 had a small fat deficiency. Overall, the fat content was satisfactory.
- (d) Samples from 4 churns of Channel Islands milk in a consignment of 10 had small fat deficiencies. Overall, the fat content was satisfactory.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria Immunisation

The number of children immunised for the first time during the year at clinics, schools or by general practitioners was as follows :—

Pre-school children	...	...	...	215
School children	...	...	...	9
Reinforcing doses	...	...	...	498

Poliomyelitis Immunisation

Immunisation against poliomyelitis is now available at all infant welfare clinics.

Total number of children immunised during the year ...
223 + 416 Reinforcing doses

Smallpox Vaccination

Pre-school children vaccinated	...	257
School children vaccinated	...	6
Pre-school children re-vaccinated	...	2
School children re-vaccinated	...	6

General

Cases of infectious diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table :—

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Measles	57	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	—	—
Scarlet Fever	6	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis	1	—	—

Tuberculosis

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year :

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45— ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

B.C.G. Inoculation

Number of consents for testing and inoculation	169
Number tested	168
Percentage of those requested	84.00
Number positive	17
Result negative	151
Percentage positive	10.1
Vaccinated	147
Absent for Vaccination	3
Re-tested	Nil
Absent	1

Conclusion

The sanitary facilities provided by the Council are generally satisfactory, however, the modernisation of the sewage system should be proceeded with as soon as possible. While it is realised that the sewerage of the Lower Heath Area appears disproportionately expensive, I feel that this is essential for the future as conditions are far from satisfactory now and will tend to get worse as industry grows.

In November of this year the Ministry of Health was taken into the Ministry of Social Security and now appears to have a very small voice in a large organisation. I feel that is only part of a new trend, and that the health of the individual is becoming of less consequence with each change.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, Mr. Sykes and the Council's staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

R. W. MARKHAM,
Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1968

To the Chairman and Members of the
 Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1968.

Meat Inspection

The tables below give details of meat inspected during the year 1968 :—

ANIMALS INSPECTED

	<i>Cattle (exclu- ding Cows)</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed ...	54	—	—	546	145
Number Inspected ...	54	—	—	546	145
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :					
Whole Carcases con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	—	—	Nil	3
Percentage of the n u m b e r inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculo- sis or Cysticerci ...	7.4	—	—	Nil	2.07
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1
Percentages of the n u m b e r inspected affected with tubercu- losis.	—	—	—	—	0.7
Cysticercosis ...	—	—	—	—	—

Meat was condemned for the following reasons :

<i>Cause</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Tuberculosis	10 lbs.
Abscesses	34 lbs.
Distomatosis and other parasitic conditions ...	13 lbs.
Congestion	8 lbs.
Pericarditis	4 lbs.
Retention cysts	4 lbs.
	<hr/>
	73 lbs.
	<hr/>

Other Foods

43 Voluntary surrender certificates were issued to local traders in respect of food rendered unfit for human consumption by reasons of unsound cans, refrigerator breakdowns, etc.

The food surrendered consisted of :—

Fresh meat	1 cwt.	53 lbs.
Canned meat		18 lbs.
Other canned food		57 lbs.
Other food		92 lbs.
		<hr/>
	2 cwts.	108 lbs.
		<hr/>

In addition to the above, complaints are received from time to time regarding the conditions of food or food containers purchased locally.

Immediate investigation of such complaints is made and where necessary the assistance of the Analyst's Department or the Public Health Laboratory is called in.

Food and Drugs Act 1955 — Section 16

Registration of premises used for the manufacture of prepared foods :—

Number on Register	8
Premises Registered for sale of Ice Cream ...	80

HOUSING

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Section 16, 17 and 18 of the Housing Act 1957.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (3) Number of Undertakings not to re-let accepted | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (4) Number of houses demolished following Statutory Action | ... | ... | ... | 4 |

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Act.

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| (2) Number of Houses in which defects were remedied following formal notices | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

(c) Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act 1957 (Clearance Areas)

...	Nil
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

This Act came into operation in 1964. The aim of the Act is to secure registration of all office and shop premises where persons are employed.

Standards of health, safety and welfare facilities are laid down in the Act and its various orders.

The following table indicates the position at 31st December, 1968 :—

<i>Class of premises</i>	<i>Number of Premises Registered during the year</i>	<i>Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year</i>	<i>Number of Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during year</i>
Offices	Nil	35	4
Retail Shops ...	Nil	78	29
Wholesale S h o p s , Warehouses ...	Nil	3	Nil
Catering Establish- ments open to the p u b l i c a n d canteens ...	Nil	17	3
Fuel Storage depots	1	2	1
	1	135	37

Analysis of Persons Employed

<i>Class of Premises</i>	<i>Number of Employees</i>
Offices	216
Retail Shops	353
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	41
Catering establishments open to the public	122
Canteens	2
Fuel Storage depots	93
	<hr/> 827
	445 Males
	382 Females
Number of Accidents reported	Nil

Public Cleansing

Refuse Collection

A weekly collection of refuse has once again been maintained throughout the year, not without difficulty but without it being necessary to engage any temporary labour. One new freighter was brought into use in April, this being of 25 cu. yd. capacity, and this has no doubt helped to improve the service in part of the district. The outside staff has changed little during the year and probably for the first time for many years there is a waiting list of persons desiring to join the staff.

The increase in the number of properties serviced continues and is likely to do so for some years yet and the time is rapidly approaching when additional staff will be required.

Refuse Disposal

Delivery was made in November of a Weatherill L.50 four wheel drive hydraulic shovel for use on the Bonemill Tip. This machine will enable fully controlled tipping to be carried out and so end the nuisance and possible danger from the continuously burning refuse.

Salvage

The re-organisation of the trade refuse collection has resulted in a steady increase in the amount of waste paper collected, baled and sold. It is anticipated that this trend will continue and as long as it is necessary to man the weighbridge at Bonemill the baling of paper as a secondary occupation is a worthwhile proposition.

				1967			1968		
				<i>tons cwts. qrs.</i>			<i>tons cwts. qrs.</i>		
Waste paper collected	...	...	...	64	3	2	80	5	0
Income	...	...	...	£425	15	10	£569	2	4
Miscellaneous sales of scrap realised				...		...	£31	6	3
Total revenue	...	...	...	.		...	£600	8	7

Details of the Cost of the Collection and Disposal of Refuse during 1968

					£	s.	d.
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	29905	0	0
Income	...	...	...	...	1995	0	0
						<hr/>	
Net Cost	...	...	...	...	27910	0	0
						<hr/>	

Cleansing of Cesspools and Pail Closets

There has been very little change in this onerous and unpleasant service. A hoped for decrease in the number of pail closets did not materialise owing to delays in commencing conversions. The cesspools used in connection with factories present quite a problem due to the variable numbers of employees in the buildings from time to time. It is not always possible to arrange emptyings at regular intervals because of this variable factor and urgent calls for the services of the tanker are quite frequent.

Public Weighbridge

The weighbridge continues to be used quite regularly but not on an economical basis. The fact that the attendant is also employed baling salvage makes it a reasonable proposition and enables the service to continue.

Outdoor Staff employed on Public Cleansing

- 2 Refuse Freighter Driver/Loaders
- 9 Refuse Loaders
- 1 Refuse and Salvage Driver/Loader
- 1 Refuse and Salvage Loader
- 2 Salvage Balers/Weighbridge Attendants
- 1 Gully/Cesspool Emptyier Driver
- 1 Gully/Cesspool Attendant
- 1 Tip Attendant

RODENT CONTROL

The public sewers were baited with fluoracetamide during the year in an attempt to control the rat population both in the sewerage system and on the surface. The figures for surface treatments show a reduction in the number of infestations and it is hoped that this trend will continue.

Summary of Work carried out in 1968

Properties other than sewers	<i>Domestic Etc.</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>
1. Number of properties in district	5770	26
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification ...	173	—
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	159	—
(ii) Mice	23	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	385	8
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	115	—
(ii) Mice	13	—

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public Conveniences serving the town are as follows:—

- (a) Bridge Street, Men and Women.
- (b) Lion Hill, Men and Women.
- (c) Rear Swan Hotel, Men's Urinal only.
- (d) Memorial Park, Men and Women.
- (e) Severn Meadows Car Park, Men and Women. Open during holiday season only.
- (f) Walshes Farm Car Park, Men and Women. Open during holiday season only.

In spite of the amount of damage by fair means and foul these conveniences have functioned satisfactorily throughout the year.

MORTUARY

In 1968 29 bodies were placed in the Council's Mortuary, (15 from outside districts).

Factories Act 1961

Part 1 of the Act

- 1. Inspection for the purpose of provisions as to Health (including inspection by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspection</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	69	12	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	2	—	—
	71	16	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were in- stituted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspec- tor	by H.M. Inspec- tor	
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp- erature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventila- tion (S4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary convenien- ces (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	1	—

Summary of Visits 1968

Housing Acts

Inspections and Recordings	...	...	...	...	65
Revisits	...	...	...	...	22
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	2

Rent Act

Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	Nil
Revisits	...	...	...	...	Nil

Public Health Acts

Complaints	...	...	...	...	95
Revisits	...	...	...	...	41
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	Nil

Food Hygiene Regulations

Inspections	...	...	...	...	27
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	2
Inspections	...	...	...	...	Nil
Samples	...	...	...	...	Nil

Food and Drugs Acts

Unsound Food	13
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Milk and Dairies Regulations	1
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

Inspections	...	...	...	...	37
Accidents	...	...	...	...	Nil

Caravan Sites	44
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	55
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Factories Acts

Inspections	3
-------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	149
Salvage Depot	...	...	...	...	...	120
Tip	...	...	...	...	...	120
Weighbridge	...	...	...	...	...	118
Clean Air Act						
Observations	...	...	...	...	...	1
Notices and Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses						
Routine	...	...	...	...	...	12
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	100
Mortuary	...	...	...	...	...	17
Noise Abatement Act	...	...	...	...	...	16
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	37
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	65
Water Samples Bact.	...	...	...	...	...	30
Water Samples Chem.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Trade Effluent	...	...	...	...	...	8
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Radioactive Substance Act	...	...	...	...	...	3
Civic Amenities Act	...	...	...	...	...	26

Conclusion

As the population increases so does the work of the department. The impact is felt in many ways, some quite obvious, some not so obvious. The most important effect is that the day to day work has increased to such an extent that difficulty is experienced in finding time to carry out routine inspection work, thus producing a feeling of dissatisfaction in that one is not carrying out the work for which one is principally appointed.

On the other side of the picture the public health problems are not great, the district is well served by the basic services and these continue to be improved as they expand.

May I express my appreciation of the help and encouragement from the Chairman and Members of the Council from Dr. Markham and other colleagues on the staff.

N. SYKES

Public Health Inspector

